

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

May 2001

May Meeting - Peninsula Exploring the Highest Sierra

Jim Moore of the U.S. Geological Survey will lecture on the topic of his new book, **Exploring the Highest Sierra** (Stanford University Press, 2000, 448 p.).

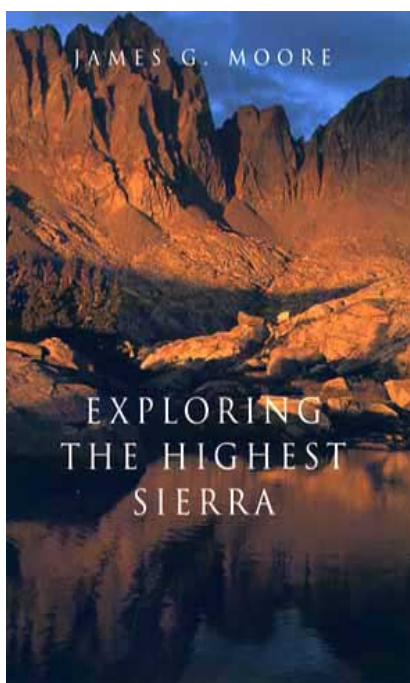
Exploring the Highest Sierra is a popular introduction to one of the most magnificent regions of the American West, detailing the geology and early exploration of the highest part of California's Sierra Nevada. It is also a guide for visitors to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, with abundant maps, photographs, and geologic road and trail guides that clearly explain the formation of the awesome natural features before them.

During the Civil War the first scientific party that attempted a reconnaissance map of the region discovered, in the process, that it included the highest mountain then in the United States, Mount Whitney. The book describes the arduous travels of the early explorers, including John C. Fremont and John Muir, and weaves the history of exploration together with modern geologic concepts to show the early naturalists' contributions to geologic thought. Throughout, all terms that may be unfamiliar to non-specialists are simply defined, and the book is richly punctuated with anecdotes, tales, and biographical sketches of colorful characters associated with the region.

The book is illustrated with 224 early etchings and maps, modern photographs and diagrams, including 44 maps that incorporate 12 historical

charts dating back to the earliest explorations. A series of 15 color maps of the region encompassing the parks, all at the same scale, feature such diverse aspects as the trails pioneered by John Muir, the extent of glacial ice during the Ice Age, and the location of geologic faults and earthquake epicenters. Geologic guides for the regions principal roads and trails (including the southern half of the John Muir Trail) define the mileage of all lookouts and points of interest so that the visitor can examine the described features at first hand.

James G. Moore is a Senior Research Geologist Emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California. He is the coauthor (with Robert D. Ballard) of *Photographic Atlas of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge Rift Valley*.



Date:	Friday, 18 May 2001
Place:	Fontana's Italian Restaurant 1850 El Camino Real Menlo Park 650-321-0610
Time:	6:00 PM Reception at the Liebowitz's home and model train station in Woodside, 7:15 PM arrive at the restaurant 7:30 PM dinner, 8:30 PM lecture
Cost:	\$45 (\$50 if postmarked after May 10)
Call Steve:	at 925-934-1051 if you mail your check after May 10.

June 23 Picnic on Angel Island

Some people think our June Picnic on Angel Island is the best meeting of the year. Aside from the fresh air and natural beauty, it s a chance to tell stories and get to know each other in a relaxed setting. Play bocce ball, ride your bike (or scooter), walk up the the summit of Mt. Livermore. Everyone must arrive by boat, self-propelled or otherwise. Info on page 3.

In an eastward view to the Sierra Crest above Dusy Basin, alpenglow colors the ragged mass of Mount Agassiz (13,891 feet, left) and the ridge of Mount Winchell (13,768 feet, right). Photo courtesy of Jim Stroup.

Directions for May Meeting

On May 18th, the Reception at the Liebowitz s home features amazing outdoor model trains, wine and cheese, and good company. At 7 P.M., we will move on to **Fontana s Italian Restaurant** for dinner and Jim Moore s account of his work in the Sierra Nevada.

Directions to the home of Dan and Rusty Liebowitz

175 Fox Hollow Road
Woodside, CA 94062
(650) 851-2171

From North:

Take I-280 south to CA-84, go west on CA-84 about 3/4 mile to the village, and straight on for another half mile to Fox Hollw Road, which is on the left. The Liebowitz s house is near the end on the left.

From Berkeley:

West on I-80 across the Bay Bridge, US-101 South, I-380 west toward San Bruno, I-280 South toward San Jose, CA-84/Woodside Road exit towards Woodside, keep right at the fork in the ramp, merge onto Woodside Rd/CA-84 West, left on Fox Hollow Road.

From Southeast side of the Bay:

West on CA-84 across the Dumbarton Bridge, stay on the Bayfront Expressway until it becomes Marsh Road and meets US-101. Take US-101 north one exit to CA-84 west/Woodside Road. Follow CA-84 about 4 miles through Redwood City, under I-280, and proceed as above.

From South:

Take I-280 north, exit CA-84 west to Woodside, proceed as above.

or

Take US-101 north to CA-84 and proceed as if you were coming from the East.

Ramblings and Explorations

Bill Isherwood retired from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in April, and is off to Greenland on an expedition by dogsled with his wife, Dana. Bill's new email address is billisherwood@earthlink.net. He will be climbing in Yukon Territory at the end of May, and will only be back for a couple of days before he and Dana head for China.

Jerry Hughes is back on his feet after a new aortic valve and will soon move to Ohio.

Eve Iverson is home from her Fulbright scholarship research in Egypt with a broken leg held together by several screws. Her Egyptian cats followed her home via Lufthansa and **Ron Reuther** met them at SFO. Eve's injury resulted from an unexpected entanglement with a Cairo taxi.

Jeff Mantel (IceTrekker@aol.com) writes: My apologies but I will be unable to attend the April 27 meeting. I am leaving tomorrow for Siberia where I will be Assistant Guide on the 2001 Weber-Malakhov North Pole Expedition. In fact, we expect to reach the Pole (on foot) on the evening of April 27 Universal Coordinated Time (Greenwich Meridian Time) which is the morning of April 27 Pacific Daylight Time. I'll be home in early May and will see you at the May 18 meeting.

Directions from the home of Dan and Rusty Liebowitz to Fontana s Italian Restaurant

1850 El Camino Real
Menlo Park
650-321-0610

Take Fox hollow Road to Woodside Road/CA-84, turn right. Either continue to El Camino Real and go right for 1.8 miles, or take I-280 south to Sand Hill Road, then turn downhill and go left on El Camino Real. The restaurant is midway between Woodside Road and the Stanford Shopping Center.

Heidi Tiura & Steph Dutton

(sanctuary@montereyisp.com) wrote on Sunday, April 08: You should have been with us today! The humpback whales arrived on Monterey Bay this week and today, we had our first friendlies of the year, as well as our first double breach. A breach is when the whale jumps out of the water and then thunders back into it. The whales were cruising along off our starboard side several hundred feet away when all of a sudden, here they came! Their pectoral flippers spun around their bodies, their pleated throats were plain to see. Almost everyone saw it and they went absolutely crazy over it. That's one enormous splash they make!

On April 6, 2001 at 12:10 pm (local time) in Ulithi Lagoon, **Lewis Chip Lambert**, his wife, **Pam Lambert**, and **Pat Scannon** were the first to dive on the wreck of the 553-foot USS Mississinewa AO-59, the only American naval ship sunk by a kaiten, a one-man Japanese suicide submarine. Since WWII, the ship s exact position has been in question, despite numerous prior attempts by both American and Japanese dive groups to find the wreck. James P. Delgado, Director of the Vancouver, B. C., Maritime Museum, and an expert on Japanese midget submarines, has described the lost USS Mississinewa as the last great unsolved WWII Pacific sinking. Using observations from historical photographs, Chip Lambert narrowed the search area from almost 200 square miles to 5 square miles. After seven straight days of searching in a small dive boat using a portable sonar unit, the team, working with Ulithians, located the tanker on a sandy bottom in 120 feet of water. There s more to this story than we have room for this month.... See more at www.bentprop.org/

Lee Langan has been in Turkey, so Sue Estey has put together this newsletter.

David Kennard, FN 2001, has worked on all sorts of amazing films and books, including the Ascent of Man for the BBC, a feature film on China, The Communications Revolution, and Amelia Earhart's Last Flight. He was sponsored by Herve Magritte and Jane Goodall.

Access to the Island is by Public Ferry or private boat.

Kayakers: meet at Schoonmaker Beach, Sausalito. Experienced kayakers only. Call **Sue Estey** at 510-526-2216. Sea Trek rents kayaks at Schoonmaker Beach to those who have taken classes in sea kayaking; call them for more information.

Please make your check out to The Explorers Club, Northern California Chapter.

If reserving late, call Steve at 925-934-1051 to confirm your reservation. Please make your check out to The Explorers Club, Northern California Chapter.

Officers of The Explorers Club, Northern California Chapter

Chair: Lesley Ewing
510-527-7899
lewing@coastal.ca.gov

Vice-Chairman: Stephen E. Smith
925-934-1051
nauticos1@oceaneearth.org

Treasurer: Thomas Hall
415-502-7204 (work)
thall@epi.ucsf.edu

Webmaster: Mike Diggles
650-369-5404
mdiggles@usgs.gov

Database: Jerry Hughes
707-887-2523
jg_huges@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Lee Langan
415-567-8089
lee@langan.net

Calendar

May 18th: The Explorers Club Garden Party at the home of Dan and Rusty Liebowitz, followed by a dinner talk by Jim Moore about his work in the High Sierra, to be held on the Peninsula at **Fontana s Italian Restaurant**, 1850 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650-321-0610). Directions on page 2.

June 23rd: The Explorers Club Picnic on Angel Island

NOTE: We have no regular meetings scheduled during the summer. The next meeting after the Angel Island Picnic will likely be in September. We hope to see you then.

May, 2001

Too late to mail but added to PDF for electronic subscribers

To: Michael Diggles <mdiggles@usgs.gov>

Hi Michael,

In early March, I went ski-climbing on Lassen. It was excellent. The weekend after, I went to Yosemite, to camp and ski to Glacier Point. The weather was perfect and the difficulty level was ideal. Then the previous weekend, I took three turkish friends to the California deserts. In a hectic four days, we went to San Diego Wild animal park (we had to do one touristic activity), Anza-Borrego, Joshua Tree and Death Valley. In Death Valley, we got up at 5:30 AM, hit all the major points of interest at the center of the park (Dante's view, Zabriskie Point, 20-mule canyon, Badwater, Devil's golf course, Artist's palette, Devil's cornfield, the dunes, etc.) and then gunned it to the Eureka dunes, the tallest in North America (700 ft). Of course, you know all this. What am I talking about? It was a jarring 45-mile ride on a dirt road (one way), but it was all worth it. So spectacular, I wish we could have spent more time. We stopped by Ubehebe crater for three minutes and then gunned it to Las Vegas past Scotty's castle and I was able to make it to my 8:45 flight to San Jose. I know this is not the best way to see the desert, but these guys still had to go on to Grand Canyon, Sequoia and Yosemite (I convinced them to see the west in one spring break) and this was much better than skipping the desert because of lack of time. Anyway. I hope you get a chance to get out too. Spring is here.

All the best
Cagan

Cagan H. Sekercioglu
Stanford University Center for Conservation Biology Department of Biological Sciences 371 Serra Mall Stanford, CA
94305-5020
<http://jasper1.stanford.edu/~cagan/main.htm>